

Remarks

Claims 1, 14, 17, 18 and 19 are amended.

Claim 20 is added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11-14 and 17-20 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

The claims are amended to delete "zeolites" as a carrier.

The claims are also amended to re-instate the limitation that the binder is not necessarily present and that the definition of the binder is open (as in the original claims).

New claim 20 is added to re-capture the matter of original claim 10.

Applicants note with appreciation that four prior art rejections are withdrawn (paragraphs 3-6 of the Office Action). Applicants believe that the claims in their present form remain patentable over these cited references.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,187,740 in view of Kuzmenka, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,627,591.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettiol in view of Kuzmenka further in view of Panandiker, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,156,722.

Bettiol is cited as teaching granules comprising condensation products of alcohols and ethylene oxides (col. 8-10), zeolites (col. 23), carboxy or hydroxymethylcellulose (col. 25) and dye transfer inhibitors such as copolymers of N-vinylpyrrolidone (co. 28).

Kuzmenka is cited as teaching granules comprising TINOFIX CL (col. 3) and zeolites (Example 7).

The Examiner maintains that it is obvious to substitute TINOFIX CL of Kuzmenka for the N-vinylpyrrolidone of Bettiol. The limitations of the present claims would then met by this combination of references.

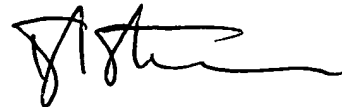
As zeolites are deleted as a present carrier, Applicants submit that the limitations of the present claims are not met by this combination of references.

Applicants submit that the present 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Request for Continued Examination